

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 15 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend claims 9 and 10 and add new claim 16 as follows:

LISTING OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claims 1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A tooth contour structure for a sprocket set of a bicycle comprising:

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- a) a small sprocket;
- b) a large sprocket coaxially located with respect to the small sprocket and having at least one second tooth group, each at least one second tooth group having at least three characteristic teeth including a first characteristic tooth having a ^{convex} curved surface on a non-force-acting side thereof and a cutting portion below the curved surface;
- 10 ? c) a recession formed in the large sprocket below the first characteristic tooth; and
- d) a projection surface ~~adjoined to~~ integrally made with and extending from the large sprocket toward the small sprocket adjacent a tooth valley bottom edge between the first characteristic tooth and a second characteristic tooth, the projection surface having a top edge with a curvature matching a path and curvature of a chain, the cutting portion being between the curved surface of the first characteristic tooth and the top edge of the projecting surface.
- 15 ?

10. (Currently Amended) The tooth contour structure according to claim 9, wherein the top edge of the projection surface has a slant angle angle.

11. (Previously Added) The tooth contour structure according to claim 9, wherein the recession extends from below the first characteristic tooth to below an adjacent tooth.

12. (Previously Added) The tooth contour structure according to claim 9, further comprising:

a recessed tooth valley between the second characteristic tooth and a third characteristic tooth.

13. (Previously Added) The tooth contour structure according to claim 9, wherein a tooth top of the first characteristic tooth is cut a predetermined amount such that the first characteristic tooth is a shortened tooth.

14. (Previously Added) The tooth contour structure according to claim 9, wherein a tooth top of the second characteristic tooth is cut a predetermined amount such that the second characteristic tooth is a shortened tooth.

Claim 15. (Canceled)

16. (New) The tooth contour structure according to claim 9, wherein the large sprocket is made by a stamp-forming process.